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SOURCE Newspapers as indicated.

IRRIGATION FACILITIES BEING INCREASED;
8 MILLION MOU TO BE ADDED

MINISTRY ISSUES IRRIGATION EXPANSION DIRECTIVE -- Hong Kong Wen-hui Pao, 27 May 50

Peiping, 26 May (Hsin-hua) -- On 18 May 1950, the Ministry of Agriculture issued a directive to improve supervision over irrigation of fields in order to attain the 1950 goal for grain and cotton production.

The directive criticizes the irrational and irresponsible handling of irrigation in the past and gives instructions for the correction of such practices this year. The directive asserts that to attain the 1950 goal it is essential that people's governments of all levels make the necessary surveys of the fields to be irrigated and organize agricultural specialists to direct the farmers in the pursuance of scientific irrigation and planting methods. Emphasis is placed especially on the introduction of the crop-rotation system, the increase of acreage under irrigation and the yield per mou.

At present, the directive points out, there are 400 million mou [one mou equals 1/6 acre] of irrigated fields, which is 27 percent of the total arable land in China. The irrigated fields, moreover, produce one half of the total crops in cotton and grain.

During 1950, the directive goes on, the plan is to increase the existing irrigated acreage by 8,500,000 mou. It urges the governments of all levels to set up good reporting systems, to record work progress, to supervise repair and construction work, to facilitate proper flooding of fields during summer months, and to realize the cotton and grain production goal for 1950.

CONSTRUCTION OF CANALS BEGUN IN CHAHAR -- Peiping Jen-min Jih-pao, 22 May 50

Kalgan -- According to the Chahar Jih-pao, surveying, planning, and preparations in connection with the three large irrigation projects in Sang-kan Ho, Yu Ho, and Hun Ho districts in Chahar Province have been completed; and the construction of irrigation ditches has already started. In the three irrigation districts, six main and branch canals, totaling 274 kilometers, will be built; and 434 dams, water gates, locks, and weirs will be installed.

- 1 -

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It was estimated that the following amounts of materials are needed to complete these projects: 2,228,492 kilograms of cement, 2,076,094 kilograms of lime, 10,123 cubic meters of stone, 36,539 cubic meters of crushed rock, 18,236 cubic meters of gravel, 30,744 pieces of timber, 271,013 board feet of lumber, 22,515 kilograms of reinforcing steel, and 45,893 kilograms of various metal articles. When these projects are completed, 990,000 mou of land, capable of producing 72,900,000 shih chin [one pound equals 0.9072 shih chin] of millet, will be made irrigable.

REPAIRS CANALS IN SHIH-CHIA-CHUANG AREA -- Peiping Jen-min Jih-pao, 22 May 50

Shih-chia-chuang -- In April 1950, repairs of irrigation canals in the Shih-chia-chuang Special District in Hopeh Province were completed. These canals will provide water for 250,000 mou of land. There are 25 large and more than 100 small canals in this district.

DIKES REPAIR NEARLY COMPLETE IN HUNAN -- Peiping Jen-min Jih-pao, 22 May 50

Ch'ang-sha -- Most of the necessary repairs on river dikes have been completed in Ch'ang-te, I-yang, Yuan-chiang, Hua-jung, Nan-hsien, An-hsiang, Han-shou, Hsiang-yin, Li-hsien, Yo-yang, and Lin-hsiang hsiens in the area surrounding the Tung-t'ing Hu, and in Ch'ang-sha and Hsiang-t'an hsiens, along the Hsiang Chiang and Yuan Chiang. The work was begun in February, 1950 and to date 31,433,390 cubic meters of earthwork have been completed, and 4 million mou of rice fields, capable of producing 150 million shih [one shih equals 2.94 bushels], have been made safe from floods.

JULY TARGET DATE FOR WATER CONSERVATION PROJECTS -- Peiping Jun-min Jih-pao, 22 May 50

Shanghai -- The Water Conservation Department of the East China Military Control Commission called a special meeting between 7 and 11 May 1950 to discuss the completion of water conservation projects in East China to prevent summer floods. It was reported at the meeting that, as of April 30, 100,705,829 cubic meters of earthwork, representing 55.1 percent of the original plan, was completed, and that most of the remaining work was expected to be completed by the end of July. It was urged that the banks of the Yangtze River and the Huai Ho and the retaining walls along the coast be built to the height of the walls built in 1931 which withstood floods in that year.

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- 2 -

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